

Centre County will hold two public hearings on the Centre County Human Services Block Grant Plan. The first hearing will be held on Thursday May 26th at the Mount Nittany Medical Center, Dreibelbis Auditorium, State College, PA. The Public Hearing will begin at 5:30pm.

The second Public Hearing will be Tuesday May 31, 2016 at the Willowbank Building, Room 146, Bellefonte, PA. The Public Hearing will be part of the Board of Commissioners Meeting. This meeting begins at 10:00am and the Public Hearing will be scheduled during the meeting.

The purpose of the public hearing is to discuss services, gather input on needs and priorities within the human service system and to provide an opportunity for testimony from stakeholders, especially individuals and families utilizing services. The hearing will provide an overview of the Fiscal Year 16-17 Human Services Block Grant involving the Centre County Office of Mental Health/Intellectual Disability, Early Intervention, Drug & Alcohol, Children and Youth Services, and the Office of Adult Services. A draft of the county plan will be available on the county's website by the close of business on Wednesday May 25th. If you are interested in submitting written testimony, please e-mail nwcorman@centrecountypa.gov by June 2nd, 2016. For more information contact Natalie Corman at 814-355-6700 or nwcorman@centrecountypa.gov

For those of you unfamiliar with the Human Services Block Grant, below is an overview.

Centre County was chosen as one of original 20 counties in Pennsylvania to implement a five year pilot process whereby a portion of Human Services' funding will be administered as a Block Grant beginning July 1, 2012. The principle of the block grant is to allow each county to decide how to allocate funding derived from funding types originating from the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS). The county has the ability to allocate the funds by authority of the Board of Commissioners' office according to local needs through guidance from the county departments, Advisory Boards, and community input. Centre County contracts with a large number of provider service organizations to provide the services to County residents. Centre County is also a service provider in that it directly provides case management and service coordination services. The county offices participating in the human services block grant include:

- Centre County Office of Mental Health/Intellectual Disability, Early Intervention, Drug & Alcohol,
- Centre County Children and Youth Services, and
- Centre County Office of Adult Services.

The County must provide services as originally intended by these fund types and must submit a plan as to how to provide these services which is reviewed for approval by the Pennsylvania State Department of Human Services (DHS). The original areas are:

- Mental Health— including intake, community consultation, and education, support for families caring for members with mental disorders and community residential programs;
- Intellectual Disabilities Community Based - services for individuals of all ages with an intellectual disability diagnosis not eligible for other specific waiver programs;

- County Child Welfare Special Grants – services for dependent and delinquent children and their families;
- Homeless Assistance Program – services for the homeless-- shelter, housing, rental assistance, and housing case management;
- Drug and Alcohol – non-hospital residential detoxification and rehabilitation services for persons eligible for Medical Assistance; and
- Human Services Development Fund– basic need services provided to low income individuals and families to support a variety of needs.

Please share this with any providers, family members, individuals, advisory boards, etc. to help spread the word concerning our public hearings.